

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 DODE-00 DRC-01 /107 W

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P R 131215Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5448

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION GENEVA

DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7314

ANKARA FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF, UN

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - FUTURE AFGHAN PROGRAM

REF: STATE 199330

1. WE CONCUR IN DESIRABILITY INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS COMMITTEE EXPLORING POSSIBLE NEW STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN WITH AMBASSADOR ELIOT PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE. WE ALSO PLEASED HE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY STOP IN GENEVA AND POSSIBLY IN BONN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AFTER INTERAGENCY MEETING. (BONN STOP NOW SEEMS TO US LESS IMPORTANT IN LIGHT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.) THIS CABLE RESPONDS TO TOPICS PARA TWO REFTEL.

2. WHILE IT STILL EARLY, WE ARE INCREASINGLY ENCOURAGED BY NEW REGIME'S APPARENT SERIOUSNESS IN TRYING TO CONTROL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. PRESIDENT DAOUD TOLD CHARGE OCTOBER 13 THAT HE HAD ORDERED FULL COOPERATION WITH US NARCOTICS EXPERTS, AND THAT THIS IS "AS MUCH OR MORE IN AFGHAN INTERESTS THAN IN THAT OF US." GOA NOW SEEMS TO BE MOVING AGAINST BOTH FOREIGNERS AND AFGHANS AND HAS MADE CONFIDENTIAL

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SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES OF BOTH HASHISH AND OPIUM, PARTICULARLY THE LATTER. DRASTICALLY INCREASED SENTENCES ALSO NOW BEING GIVEN TO CONVICTED TRAFFICKERS. AT SAME TIME, GOA ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES REMAIN LIMITED AND IT WILL STILL REQUIRE APPROPRIATE FOREIGN

INPUT BEFORE PROGRAM CAN GET MOVING AT PACE WE HOPE TO SEE. WITH COMPLETELY NEW PERSONNEL NOW RESPONSIBLE IN MININT AND WITH INTERNAL PROBLEMS NEW REGIME IS FACING AS RESULT VARIOUS ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES, NEW PERSONNEL HAVE NOT REALLY HAD TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON THIS ASPECT OF THAT PROGRAM.

3. DURING CHARGE'S CALL ON MININT FAIZ MOHAMMAD, OCTOBER 7, IN ORDER INTRODUCE SAIC PETTIT, MININT INDICATED DESIRE FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND DESIGNATED PERSONNEL IN MINISTRY WITH WHOM PETTIT SHOULD BEGIN WORKING DIALOGUE. DURING PAST THREE DAYS JUSTICE ATTACHES HAVE CONDUCTED SERIES OF MEETINGS THAT INVOLVED DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SECURITY, GENERAL COMMANDANT OF POLICE AND CHIEF OF CID. THOSE OFFICIALS ADVISED THAT AN ANTI-SMUGGLING UNIT OF TWELVE MEMBERS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE CID AND IS CHARGED WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF THE DRUG TRAFFIC. THEY HAVE NATIONAL JURISDICTION AND NEED NOT COORDINATE WITH PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES. CHIEF CID WAS DESIGNATED AS PRIMARY DEA COUNTERPART, AND GENERAL COMMANDANT OF POLICE HAS INVOLVED HIMSELF AND IS READILY ACCESSIBLE TO DEA. KEY OFFICERS INVOLVED ARE IN THEIR EARLY THIRTIES AND EXPRESS EAGERNESS TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEWLY FORMED UNIT. NEW UNIT IS PREDOMINANTLY UN-TRAINED IN NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT, AND ABOUT TEN SIMILARLY TRAINED OFFICERS ARE TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT IN NEAR FUTURE AS NEEDED. THESE OFFICERS SEEM LESS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING COMMODITIES THAN IN GAINING EXPERTISE THROUGH DEA OPERATIONAL ADVICE AND COOPERATION. THEY EXPRESS DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ENFORCEMENT INTENTIONS AS A BASIS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT. THEIR EMPHASIS IS TO BE ON THE VITAL AREA OF INFORMANT AND ACTIONABLE INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT. THEY EXPRESS KEEN INTEREST IN LAUNCHING UNDERCOVER PROJECTS INVOLVING THEIR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS. BASED UPON THESE TALKS, JUSTICE ATTACHES ARE ENCOURAGED AND WILL BE PRESENTING SOME PRELIMINARY DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION DURING A DEA REGIONAL CONFERENCE BEGINNING OCTOBER 16 AT ANKARA. IT IS ANTICIPATED THESE PROPOSALS WILL REFLECT NEW APPROACHES TO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS AIMING AT GREATER COST EFFECTIVENESS AND EXPLOITATION OF GOA'S STATED INTENTIONS. JUSTICE ATTACHE BELIEVES PROSPECTS AND ATMOSPHERE FOR EARLY BILATERAL ENFORCEMENT RESULTS GOOD, ASSUMING APPROPRIATE AND MEANINGFUL DEA-ADMINISTERED ASSISTANCE
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TO NEWLY FORMED NARCOTIC UNIT CAN BE ARRANGED.

4. MFA HAS NOT YET SIGNED SMALL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH UN ALTHOUGH WE ARE TOLD FULL AGREEMENT REACHED AND SIGNATURE IMMINENT. ONCE UN ASSISTANCE BEGINS TO ARRIVE AND UN NARCOTICS ADVISOR IS ON BOARD, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE EVEN GREATER AFGHAN ACTIVITY. WE DO NOT EXPECT SEE SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL MOVEMENT BEFORE END CY 73, I.E., PRIOR MEETING INTERNATIONAL DONORS IN GENEVA. AT SAME TIME, WE MUST KEEP IN MIND APPARENT INCREASED ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY AFGHANS. SITUATION OFFERS POTENTIAL FOR NEAR FUTURE AND OUR ROLE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT MUST BE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THIS INITIATIVE AS WELL AS FORCE GREATER ACTIVITY WHILE BROADER ASSISTANCE UNDER UN AUSPICES IS

BEING PROGRAMMED AND DELIVERED.

5. WE VIEW GOA INTIMATIONS OF LARGE DEVELOPMENT AID COMMITMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR NARCOTICS BAN AS UNREALISTIC. ANY EVENTUAL US ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF UN PROGRAM, GOA FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER COMMITMENTS, AND OTHER DONOR ASSISTANCE. IT SHOULD ALSO GO ONLY TO PROJECTS JUSTIFIED ON SOUND DEVELOPMENT BASIS. WE BELIEVE AMBASSADOR ELIOT'S ARRIVAL OFFERS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO GET ACROSS AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOA A BETTER UNDERSTANDING THAT NARCOTICS PROBLEM DOES NOT OFFER BACK DOOR FOR GREATLY INCREASED AID COMMITMENTS. DAOUD DESPERATELY NEEDS LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND UNDOUBTEDLY STARTS FROM ASSUMPTION THAT US DESIRE FOR NARCOTICS BAN MIGHT BE USED TO ACHIEVE HIS DOMESTIC GOALS. WE SHALL HAVE TO DISPEL THIS IMPRESSION OVER COMING MONTHS, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, UNDERCUTTING IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION. WE SHOULD SUPPORT PROPOSED UN PROGRAM IN DONORS MEETING AT GENEVA, SINCE OUR SUPPORT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE CRUCIAL TO ANY COORDINATED PROGRAM AIMED AT EVENTUAL CESSATION OF PRODUCTION BEING DEVELOPED. AFTERWARDS, UN SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AFGHANS, SUPPORTED BY WHATEVER BILATERAL PROGRAMS OF VARIOUS DONORS ARE AGREED UPON IN GENEVA AND SUBSEQUENTLY NEGOTIATED WITH GOA.

6. AT PRESENT MOMENT, WE STILL BELIEVE PREVIOUS PLAN FOR COORDINATED APPROACH AND ASSISTANCE PACKAGE UNDER UN UMBRELLA IS DESIRABLE. (THIS IS SAID WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT A MODIFIED VERSION OF PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED US ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM FOR MINJUS UNIT COULD AND WOULD INSTEAD BE PROVIDED TO MININT UNIT IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH UN ACTIVITIES UNDER US/GOA BILATERAL AGREEMENT.)
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7. ABOVE PARAS IN PART ANSWER QUESTION IN PARA TWO D REFTTEL. WE HOPE BE ABLE PROPOSE MORE SPECIFIC BILATERAL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AFTER FORTHCOMING DEA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN ANKARA.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL07314
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731065/abqcefon.tel
Line Count: 147
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 199330
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS - FUTURE AFGHAN PROGRAM
TAGS: SNAR, AF, UN
To: STATE INFO ANKARA
ISLAMABAD
GENEVA
DEA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005